

DECISION RECORD
HUMBOLDT COUNTY WINNEMUCCA MOUNTAIN HIKING/BIKING TRAIL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2011-0002-EA

Introduction

On September 17, 2008 Humboldt County submitted an application for Winnemucca Mountain Bike and Hiking Trail right-of-way (N-86277) on which Humboldt County would develop a bicycling/hiking trail system. This trail right of way (ROW) is located in Township 36 North, Range 37 East sections 11-14 and Township 38 East, Range 38 East section 18. The project design and permitting was made possible by grant funding from the State of Nevada Division of State Lands Question 1 Program. The trail system consists of interconnected trails of differing difficulty with associated trailheads and parking areas. The hiking and biking trail system is on public land managed by the BLM. The trails in their entirety are contained on the southeast portion of Winnemucca Mountain with the trails extending from the peak to Veterans Memorial Park.

It is the BLM's responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the BLM use-Right of Way Regulations at 43 CFR 2800 to respond to a Right of Way application. Subsequently, on March 24, 2009 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU # 1792-NV-020-0903) was signed between Humboldt County and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the purpose of preparing an Environmental Assessment.

Conformance

The Proposed Action is subject to the BLM, Winnemucca District Office Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan (MFP) dated 1982 and serves to support the following MFP recreational objectives: Objective 1: Promote the understanding of the natural resources in Paradise-Denio Resource Area and the role of the BLM plays in managing these resources; Objective 2: Provide as many recreational opportunities as possible in the Paradise-Denio Resource Area; Objective 3: Ensure access to recreation areas for the general public; Objective 5: Maintain safety in recreation areas.

DECISION

Based on the Humboldt County Winnemucca Mountain Hiking/Biking Trail Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2011-0002-EA) and the attached Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), it is my decision to select the Proposed Action for implementation, subject to the mitigation developed in the EA and listed below as Stipulations. The Proposed Action is also subject to the Right-of-Way stipulations. These are attached to this Decision Record for reference.

Stipulations (Humboldt County and the BLM will work cooperatively to insure the stipulations are implemented appropriately):

- The approximate dates for the cattle drives in the Sand Dune allotment will be posted at the trail heads

- Organized biking or hiking events will be permitted to avoid cattle drives
- Trail kiosks will include educational and etiquette protocols for hikers and bikers who encounter livestock – to include the following:
 - Recommendation for dogs to be kept on a leash or controlled by owner to avoid conflicts with livestock, wildlife or other trail users.

The Proposed Action consists of two trails and two trail heads with associated signs and kiosks. Signage would provide directional and logistical information regarding the trails as well as interpretive information on the local ecological and cultural resources.

Humboldt County has committed to trail design measures that minimize impacts to natural resources. These design measures are listed in the EA in Section 2.2 and attached here for reference.

Parking for the Meandering Way Trailhead is at the Veterans Memorial Park. The Summit Trailhead is located at the top of Winnemucca Mountain and is designated as a drop-off and/or pickup point only.

Rationale

1. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Paradise-Denio MFP dated July 1982.
2. The Proposed Action meets the purpose and need for action.
3. The EA and FONSI support the Decision.

Public Outreach/Involvement

Scoping and Preliminary EA

On October 5, 2009 the BLM sent scoping letters to interested parties including adjacent landowners and mining claimants. This yielded one comment from AHL Holdings LTD expressing concern about the mining claimant's liability due to increased recreational use in an area with many adits, shafts and unmarked hazards. The Winnemucca Trail was presented at two Humboldt County Planning Commission meetings (on March 1, 2010 and September 7, 2010) at which time the trail alignments were described and the public was invited to comment. AHL Holdings was the only public to comment during the meetings. As a result of AHL Holding's letter and comment at the Commissioner's meeting, the county decided to modify its proposal by realigning the trails away from the mining claims.

Resource Concepts Inc. staff also met with the grazing allotment permittee during the summer of 2009 to discuss their concerns about conflicts with cattle drives and conflicts between trail users dogs and cattle. These discussions led to the creation of the above stipulations.

A preliminary EA was posted on the BLM's Winnemucca District Office web page for a 30-day public review on April 21, 2011. Letters were also mailed to interested parties, notifying them of the Preliminary EA's availability and a BLM Press Release was issued. During this 30 day

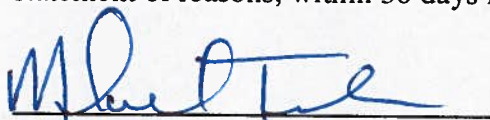
review period no substantive comments were received. The six emails received expressed positive personal viewpoints towards the project.

Native American Consultation

The Preliminary EA was sent to the Winnemucca Indian Colony and the Fort McDermitt Paiute & Shoshone Tribe and no comments were received during the 30-day public review period.

Appeal

If you feel you are adversely affected by this decision, you may appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals per the attached appeal form (1842-1). You must file your appeal and attach a statement of reasons, within 30 days from the date of this decision.



Michael Truden
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office

6-27-11
Date

Attachments:

EA
FONSI
Stipulations
ROW Stipulations
Design Measures
Form 1842-1